

Brandon A. Ortega, MD

Education

2022 – 2023	University of California, Davis , Sacramento, CA Orthopaedic Spine Fellowship
2018 – 2022	University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center , Los Angeles, CA Orthopaedic Surgery Residency
2017 – 2018	University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center , Los Angeles, CA Orthopaedic Surgery Internship
2012 – 2017	Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California , Los Angeles, CA Doctor of Medicine
2007 – 2011	Occidental College , Los Angeles, CA Bachelor of Arts, <i>cum laude</i> , Biology and Spanish Literature

Licenses

2025	American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, Diplomate
2020	Fluoroscopy License, California
2018	Medical License, California

Experience

Dec 2025 – Present	Independent Medical Evaluator , Sutton Pierce, San Francisco, CA
April 2024 – Present	Qualified Medical Evaluator , Spectrum Eval, El Cajon, CA
Sept 2023 – Present	Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon , Sport & Spine Orthopaedics, Torrance, CA
Sept 2023 – Present	Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon , Commons Clinic/Long Beach Lakewood Orthopaedic Institute, Long Beach, CA

Consulting

July 2025 – Present	Consultant , VB Spine
Feb 2024 – Present	Consultant , Stryker Neurosurgical
Feb 2024 – Present	Consultant , Kyocera Medical Technologies

Honors

2022	The Herman Epstein Award for Clinical Excellence , USC Graduate Orthopaedic Society
2021 – 2022	Co-Administrative Chief Resident , USC/LAC+USC Medical Center
2015 – 2016	Dean's Research Fellowship , Keck School of Medicine of USC
2013	Summer Research Fellowship , Keck School of Medicine of USC
2010	Spanish Department Traveling Fellowship , Occidental College

Professional Organizations

2022	North American Spine Society (NASS) Member
2022	AO Spine North America (AONA) Member
2018	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) Member

Awards

2022	Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Research Award – Runner Up Ortega B , Olumuyiwa I, Pickering T, Okada R, Tamai K, Buser Z, Alluri R, Hah R. Paraspinal Muscle Degeneration in Patients who Underwent Adult Spinal Deformity Correction is a Potential Risk Factor for Proximal Junctional Disease: A Retrospective Study.
------	---

Publications

- Shen T, Wick J, Pina D, Van B, Conry K, Vander Voort W, **Ortega B**, Khoo K, Kong S, Mitra H, Javidan Y, Roberto R, Klineberg K, Le H. Osteoporosis Treatment and Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Adult Spinal Deformity Surgery. *Global Spine Journal*. 2023. Submitted
- Piña D Jr, Kalistratova V, Boozé Z, Voort WV, Conry K, Fine J, Holland J, Wick J, **Ortega B**, Javidan Y, Roberto R, Klineberg E, Lipa S, Le H. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Patients Undergoing Surgery for Metastatic Disease of the Spine. *J Am Acad Orthop Surg*. 2023 Sep 1;31(17):e675-e684.
- Wick JB, Kalistratova VS, Jr DP, Fine JR, Boozé ZL, Holland J, Vander Voort W, Hisatomi LA, Villegas A, Conry K, **Ortega B**, Javidan Y, Roberto RF, Klineberg EO, Le HV. A Comparison of Prognostic Models to Facilitate Surgical Decision-Making for Patients with Spinal Metastatic Disease. *Spine*. 2023;48(8):567-576.
- Chung A, Ballatori A, **Ortega B**, Min E, Formanek B, Liu J, Hsieh P, Hah R, Wang JC, Buser Z. Is Less Really More? Economic Evaluation of Minimally Invasive Surgery. *Global Spine J*. 2021;11.1(suppl):30S-36S.
- Ortega B**, Gardner C, Roberts S, Chung A, Wang JC, Buser Z. Ceramic Biologics for Bony Fusion-a Journey from First to Third Generations. *Curr Rev Musculoskelet Med*. 2020;13(4):530-536.
- Sugi MT, **Ortega B**, Shepherd L, Zalavras C. Syndesmotic Screw Removal in a Clinic Setting Is Safe and Cost-effective. *Foot Ankle Spec*. 2020;13(2):144-151.
- Bougioukli S, Vakhshori V, **Ortega B**, Sugiyama O, Lieberman J. Regulated ex vivo regional gene therapy for bone repair using an inducible caspase-9 suicide gene system. *Gene Ther*. 2019;26(6):230-239.
- Buser Z, **Ortega B**, D'Oro A, Pannell W, Cohen JR, Wang J, Golish R, Reed M, Wang JC. Spine Degenerative Conditions and Their Treatments: National Trends in the United States of America. *Global Spine J*. 2018;8(1):57-67.
- Bougioukli S, Sugiyama O, Pannell W, **Ortega B**, Tan MH, Tang AH, Yoho R, Oakes DA, Lieberman JR. Gene Therapy for Bone Repair Using Human Cells: Superior Osteogenic Potential of Bone Morphogenetic Protein 2-Transduced Mesenchymal Stem Cells Derived from Adipose Tissue Compared to Bone Marrow. *Hum Gene Ther*. 2018;29(4):507-519.
- He X, Bougioukli S, **Ortega B**, Arevalo E, Lieberman JR, McMahon AP. Sox9 positive periosteal cells in fracture repair of the adult mammalian long bone. *Bone*. 2017;103:12-19.

Book Chapters

Yoshida B, Mesregah M, **Ortega B**, Wang JC, Buser Z, Chapter 33, Cervical Spinal Pain, Musculoskeletal Disorders, Springer Publishing 2022.

Abstracts

Le HV, Watson J, Pina D, Villegas A, Holland J, White M, Wick J, Vander Voort WD, **Ortega B**, Conry K, Javidan Y, Roberto R, Klineberg E. Surgical Management of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy: Comparing Outcomes Between Patients Admitted Through Clinic Versus Emergency Department. Western Orthopaedic Association. 2023 Aug 2-5, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Submitted

Roberto R, Jones Q, Bakr O, Soufi K, Javidan Y, Klineberg E, Le HV, **Ortega B**. A Retrospective Review of Laminoplasty Using Bone Grafts and Plates. Western Orthopaedic Association. 2023 Aug 2-5, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Submitted

Ortega B, Choi J, Alluri R, Bougioukli S, Um J, Kim A, Hah R. Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Versus Open Surgery for Lumbar Decompression. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; 2021 Aug 31-Sept 4; San Diego, CA. Submitted.

Yoshida B, **Ortega B**, Kang H, Alluri R, Hah R. Pre-Operative Modified Zung Depression Index Scores are not Predictive of Worse Post-Operative Outcome in Adult Spinal Deformity Patients. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; 2021 Aug 31-Sept 4; San Diego, CA. Submitted.

Yoshida B, **Ortega B**, Bougioukli S, Alluri R, Hah R. Pre-operative Modified Zung Depression Index Scores Predict Worse Short Term but not Long-Term Post-Operative Function after Posterior Lumbar Laminectomy. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; 2021 Aug 31-Sept 4; San Diego, CA. Submitted.

Presentations

Brandon Ortega, MD¹; Dagoberto Piña, BS²; Joseph Wick, MD¹; Jared Watson, MD¹; Alex Villegas, BS²; Zachary Boozé, BS²; Joseph Holland, MSHA³; Micaela White, BS²; Gabriel Santamaria, BS²; Wyatt Vander Voort, MD¹; Keegan Conry, MD¹; Yashar Javidan, MD¹; Rolando Roberto, MD¹; Eric Klineberg, MD, MS¹; Shaina Lipa, MD, MPH⁴; Hai Le, MD, MPH¹. Surgical Management of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy: Comparing Outcomes Between Patients Admitted Through Clinic Versus Emergency Department. AO Spine NA: 21st Annual Fellows Forum; 2023 March 23; Banff, Alberta, Canada.

Ortega BA, Thangathurai JL, Nguyen D, Javaherian AD, Thangathurai D. Peri-Operative Management of a Jehovah's Witness Patient with Severe Anemia and Ongoing Hemorrhage Complicated by Multi-Organ Failure and Renal Cell Carcinoma. Poster session presented at: Western Anesthesia Residents' Conference; 2016 Apr 29-May 1; San Francisco, CA.

Lectures

"Live Demonstration Broadcast from Bio Skills Lab No. 3 Stryker MAKO Robotic - 10th Annual SSF Robotics Course Aka "Everything Cool in Spine Surgery", Seattle, WA (Dec 2025)

"Approached to the Anterior Cervical Spine" – Senior Residents in Spine Education (RISE), Las Vegas, NV (Nov 2025)

"Live Spine Surgery Experience featuring Spine Guidance 5 Software with Copilot Smart Zones and Automatic Depth Stop" – Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), Los Angeles, CA (Oct 2025)

"Enhancing Precision in Spine Surgery: Case Application of Copilot" – Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), Los Angeles, CA (Oct 2025)

“Ultrasonic Precision: Advanced Decompression Techniques Using Sonopet” – Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), Los Angeles, CA (Oct 2025)

“Enabling Technology in Spine” – Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center, Long Beach, CA (Jan 2025)

“Utilization of Ultrasonic Devices for Performing Posterior Column Osteotomies (PCO) in Adult and Pediatric Spinal Deformity - A Technical Review” – UCSF Pediatric and Adult Spine Course, Honolulu, HI (July 2024)

“Spinal Complications” – Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center (Feb 2024)

“M&M: Complication s/p Mayfield Placement” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (July 2023)

“M&M: G-Tube Malpositioning/+Klebsiella SSI” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (June 2023)

“Case Consult” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (June 2023)

Grand Rounds Lecture – “Complications of Spinal Surgery” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (May 2023)

“Three Column Osteotomies” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (May 2023)

“Case Consult” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (April 2023)

“Case Presentation” – ZimVie UC Davis Fellows/Resident Program (Feb 2023)

“Treatment of Spinal Tumors” – Stryker Spine Fellow Educational Series (Feb 2023)

“Fireside Discussion” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (Feb 2023)

“Case Consult” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (Feb 2023)

“M&M: Hardware Failure in Deformity Surgery” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (Feb 2023)

Grand Rounds Lecture – “Benson Lectureship” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (Dec 2022)

“M&M: Ventral Displacement of ALIF Graft” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (Nov 2022)

“My Most Difficult Case” – Stryker Spine Fellow Educational Series (Oct 2022)

“Fireside Discussion” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (Oct 2022)

“Fireside Discussion” – AO Spine North America (AONA) Webinar (Sept 2022)

Grand Rounds Lecture – “Cervical Radiculopathy” – Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Keck School of Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, CA (May 2022)

Languages

Native Spanish speaker